

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ABUJA 002303

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF AND INL
AF/W PLS PASS TO AMB. JETER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [NL](#)
SUBJECT: ECOWAS RAISING FUNDS FOR DRUG CONTROL

This is an action cable; action request for INL and AF in para 6.

1. Ambassador Jeter recently received a letter from ECOWAS Executive Secretary Lansana Kouyate inviting him to an October 13 dinner at the NICON Hilton Hotel to raise funds for the "ECODRUG" fund (ECOWAS Fund for Financing Drug Control Activities in West Africa). The letter, which asks for confirmation of attendance, states that President Obasanjo will be the patron of the dinner.

2. RNLEO September 7 paid a call on head of the ECOWAS Drug Control Unit Mamadou Gueye at the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja. Gueye is the director of the Human Development Department and manages ECOWAS programs and policies for a wide range of issues including drug control, women's issues, and trafficking in persons.

3. Gueye explained that the start of ECOWAS' involvement in drug control issues was formally marked with the September 1998 release of a Regional Plan of Action Against the Abuse and Illicit Traffic of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in West Africa; 1997-2001 and the October 1998 launch of the ECODRUG fund by the 21st ECOWAS Heads of State Summit in Abuja in October 1998. The ECODRUG Funds calls for the raising of USD 6.572 million for the implementation of five regional anti-drug projects: a) development and strengthening of drug enforcement legislation; b) consolidation of regional and national drug control measures/strategies; c) development and strengthening of regional and national drug control policies and institutions; d) drug control information, research and networking; and e) drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation action point.

4. Gueye noted that progress in advancing both the Plan of Action and the ECODRUG fund has been extremely slow; he had hoped to have this fund-raising dinner last year, but could not get the schedules of President Obasanjo and President Konare (Mali -- then Chairman of ECOWAS) to match. The dinner will be attended by 200 guests, he estimated and, while funding commitments are encouraged, they are not expected of all guests.

5. Drawing attention to the NDLEA's recently announced plans to create a regional drug enforcement training center in Jos, RNLEO suggested that ECOWAS and UNDCP coordinate funding for this institution. Gueye responded positively, noting that a similar attempt to create a regional training center in Cote d'Ivoire had failed due to limited support from ECOWAS and the training center administrators' apparently inability to accommodate both Francophone and Anglaphone participants.

6. Comment and Action Request for INL and AF: While the USG is not expected to make a formal funding pledge at the ECODRUG fund-raising dinner, we expect to be asked about the prospects for USG assistance to this nascent regional anti-drug effort. We would like to offer more than moral support to this ECOWAS program. Please provide guidance on the feasibility of USG assistance to ECOWAS for drug control. Can ESF funds earmarked for regional programs be used for this purpose? if not, could INL consider earmarking a modest amount in INC funds from the FY2002 budget?
Andrews